

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SUGGESTED MESSAGE TO AFRICAN POSTS

1. DEPT IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS QUERIES FROM AFRICAN POSTS FOR BRIEFING WHICH THEY CAN USE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING CIRCULAR TELEGRAM BE SENT ALL AFRICAN POSTS. BEGIN TEXT:

2. ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. VIEWS ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE:

A. PREPARATIONS ARE WELL ALONG FOR OPENING OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 18. BOTH SIDES TO CONFLICT ARE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ATTEND. FINAL DETAILS ARE BEING WORKED OUT WITH PARTIES WHICH WILL THEN ENABLE US AND USSR TO NOTIFY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PARTIES ACCEPTANCE AND ASK HIM TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATIONS.
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B. REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND ISRAEL ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND OPENING, ALONG WITH US, USSR AND SECRETARY-GENERAL. US IS WELL AWARE OF NEED FOR MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR SYG AND UN IN PEACE CONFERENCE. QUESTION OF

SUBSEQUENT PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE REPRESENTATION LEFT OPEN.

C. FIRST ORDER OF SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS EXPECTED BE DISENGAGEMENT AND SEPARATION OF FORCES ALONG FRONT LINES. WE BELIEVE SIX POINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL ANNOUNCED NOV 9 WAS GOOD STEP IN SOLIDIFYING CEASEFIRE. VALUABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON DISENGAGEMENT (POINT B OF SIX POINTS) ALTHOUGH REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO AWAIT PEACE CONFERENCE. WE ARE NEVERTHELESS GRATIFIED THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL TOOK CONSTRUCTIVE, PRACTICAL APPROACH TOWARD WORKING OUT IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX POINTS. EXCHANGE OF POWS AND RESUPPLY OF SUEZ CITY AND EGYPTIAN III CORPS ON EAST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL WERE NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS REGARD. WHILE THERE HAVE CONTINUED TO BE MINOR CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, THESE HAVE NOT DEFLECTED INTEREST OF PARTIES IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

D. WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE DESIRE OF CERTAIN AFRICAN AND OTHER STATES TO PLAY HELPFUL ROLE IN ACHIEVING MIDDLE EAST PEACE. HOWEVER, FROM PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, WE BELIEVE THAT CONFERENCE LIMITED TO PARTIES PLUS US, USSR AND SYG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE OFFERS BEST PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. THIS IS ARRANGEMENT PARTIES THEMSELVES FIND ACCEPTABLE. ADDING FURTHER PARTICIPANTS, ON OTHER HAND, LIKELY TO COMPLICATE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND MAKE ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN PARTIES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE VALID INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND FOR THIS REASON IT IS ENVISAGED THAT SYG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE.

E. STATES WHICH WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD CAN MAKE REAL CONTRIBUTION BY SUPPORTING THE DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT PROCESS WHICH NOW IN PROGRESS.
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THEY MAY WISH TO WEIGH IN WITH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO URGE RESTRAINT AND CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS AIMING AT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT.

F. US, FOR ITS PART, RECOGNIZES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BE EASY. HOWEVER, POST-OCTOBER SITUATION PROVIDES IN OUR JUDGMENT BEST OPPORTUNITY SINCE 1967 FOR PARTIES TO DEAL WITH KNOTTY FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE THUS FAR EVADED MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION. BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE COMMITTED US TO A MAJOR EFFORT TO HELP PARTIES ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

3. POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT APPROACHES FROM HOST

GOVERNMENTS ON OFFERS TO BE HELPFUL. END TEXT.

4. REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR TRANSMITTAL THIS MESSAGE.
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